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6/14/79

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 IO-14 HA-05 TRSY-02 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /107 W
-----086131 170521Z /73

R 142044Z JUN 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1101
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USUN NEW YORK 0967
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPs

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4849

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/14/85 (THAYER, YVONNE) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: [REDACTED] PASTOR REPORTS ON PEN AND DISAPPEARANCE CASES

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR REPORTEDLY TOLD THE ASSEMBLED EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET AMBASSADORS LAST WEEK THAT A LAW CONCERNING THE STATUS OF FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS WOULD SOON BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE JUNTA FOR APPROVAL AND SHOULD BE PROMULGATED WITHIN THREE MONTHS. AS REPORTED BY THE FRENCH EMBASSY (PROTECT), PASTOR SAID THE LAW WOULD ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES FOR PRESUMPTIVE DEATH: THREE MONTHS AFTER A DISAPPEARANCE, THE FAMILY COULD PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION; THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE THREE MORE MONTHS TO ESTABLISH THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE DISAPPEARED

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PERSON; IF NO INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD AUTHORIZE PRESUMPTIVE DEATH, OPENING THE WAY FOR

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FAMILIES TO CLAIM SURVIVORS' BENEFITS AND REGULARIZE THEIR LEGAL STATUS. FINALLY, THE FAMILY COULD CLAIM INDEMNIZATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT. PASTOR APPARENTLY DID NOT DETAIL HOW THE INDEMNIZATION WOULD WORK.

3. PASTOR ALSO TOLD THE AMBASSADORS THAT THE GOA IS REDOUBLING ITS EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE PEN POPULATION. HE SAID THAT THE PEN POPULATION SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE PR 2000 OR SO TO ABOUT 500 WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS AND TO 50 OF THE "HARD-CORE UNRELEASABLES" BY THE END OF THE YEAR. PASTOR SAID THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS INCREASED ITS PEN LEGAL REVIEW STAFF FROM FOUR TO 30 LAWYERS. HE SAID RELEASES UNDER OPTION WOULD INCREASE, AND THAT OTHER PEN PRISONERS WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR TRIAL OR RELEASED OUTRIGHT OR GRANTED CONDITIONAL LIBERTY. ACCORDING TO OUR FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE, PASTOR IMPLIED THAT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED IMPROVEMENTS WERE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN TIME FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION VISIT WHICH HE SEEMED TO EXPECT WOULD OCCUR SOMETIME IN THE FALL, IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.

4. THE FRENCH EMBASSY'S REPORT ALSO QUOTES PASTOR AS DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF SECRET DETENTION CAMPS.
CASTRO

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